

Lake Michigan Coastal Grants Program

2003 Round I – 5 projects

LMCP has received NOAA Approval for the following projects, these projects are in the Grant Agreement signing process:

RESEARCH

Purdue University North Central

Diversity, distribution and habitat characteristics of aquatic plant communities in the Indiana Dunes Region

\$36,282/\$17,610

This project is a detailed assessment of the botanical structure of intradunal ponds of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore by mapping species distribution, quantifying diversity, and measuring both physical and chemical parameters. The information produced from this study will benefit long-term monitoring plans of these protected habitats.

HABITAT RESTORATION

IDNR – Division of Nature Preserves

Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve Priority Wetland Prairie & Associated Savanna Restoration

\$50,000/\$50,000

This project will restore native wetland prairie and associated upland savanna/prairie at a portion of Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve. Hoosier Prairie is the largest remaining prairie/savanna complex in Indiana. The goal of this project is to reduce the percentage cover of woody resprouts in the more diverse portions of the Nature Preserve. This entire project area is 72 acres, with 41 acres of it being wetlands and associated uplands. The 41 acres of wetland prairie will receive more intense maintenance and restoration efforts.

City of Hobart

Lake George Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project

\$100,000/\$100,000

This construction project will result in the restoration of 950 feet of eroded shoreline in Jerry Pavese Park using bioengineering design principles.

LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

City of Michigan City

Karwick Nature Park

\$100,000/\$100,000

This project will allow for the clean-up, design and creation of a 23.5 acre public nature park with trails and fishing access. Approximately 12 acres of forest will be protected and used as a walking trail only area.

LAND ACQUISITION

Lake County Parks and Recreation Project

Deep River Headwaters Land Acquisition Project

\$65,800/\$65,847

The project will involve the acquisition of 2 twenty acre parcels of land that border the current 257-acre Deep River Headwaters (DRH) land base. This additional land will provide a wetland refuge at a scale large enough to attract diverse wildlife. Deep River Headwaters is located in the upper reaches of Beaver Dam Ditch which feeds Deep River.

2003 Round II – 11 projects

LMCP has received NOAA approval for the following projects, these projects are in the Grant Agreement signing process or officially beginning:

RESEARCH

Purdue University North Central

Conservation genetics of rare aquatic plants of the coastal zone

\$15,568/\$7,043

The proposed study will investigate genetic diversity within and among rare aquatic plant populations in the intradunal ponds of the coastal zone region. The major benefits that will result from this project are 1) a better understanding of the correlates of rarity of aquatic plants in intradunal pond ecosystems, 2) identification of imperiled populations and the prioritization of conservation efforts, 3) the establishment of population specific conservation strategies, which may include the maintenance of existing populations having high levels of diversity, the restoration of degraded populations, and the translocation of species to populations having low levels of diversity, 4) an increased likelihood of the persistence of rare populations over time.

Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department

Trail Creek Dune-Riverine Coastal Complex – Archaeological Survey

\$5,000/\$5,000

Funds will be used to conduct an archaeological study of a known native hunting, habitation, farming and trading site probably used for millenia, named the Trail Creek site. This site is part of an ancient native gathering place for village leaders in the region. A limited area will be examined by advanced archeological methods. The conclusion of this study may suggest that more intensive investigation is justified

PLANNING

Porter County Parks & Recreation Department

Bio-Study of the Paul Zona Wildlife Sanctuary

\$2,250/\$2,250

Funds will be used to conduct a Bio-Study that will include wildlife, plant and soils study for the 91 acre Paul C. Zona Wildlife Sanctuary. The property is open to the public. The study will provide the Parks Department with some environmental evidence of what property has to offer as well as where to place future trails (identify areas to preserve).

EDUCATION/OUTREACH

Center for Interactive Learning

Vista - Creating a community partnership for coastal water preservation

\$50,000/\$33,000

The Lake Coastal Vista project proposes to develop a Vista collaborative partnership between Michigan City Schools, Gary Schools, East Porter County Schools, community organizations and the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. The purpose of the Lake Coastal Vista partnership is to: (1) educate students in issues and community initiatives which build an understanding of coastal waters, (2) the role of coastal waters in the economic viability of a community and impact to us as a nation, and (3) to build students' research skills in order to develop and propose viable solutions to the issues at hand.

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund

Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team

\$69,950/\$83,950

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund will establish a Coastal Restoration Action Team to coordinate restoration resources in the Lake Michigan coastal region. This partnership between public and private organizations will work to assess restoration needs, and coordinate and provide training on restoration techniques.

City of Michigan City

Breakwater Crib Timbers: Historical Preservation Display

\$3,500/\$7,085

In the early 1800's, oak timbers were used to create "cribs" in Chicago which were then floated across Lake Michigan to an area near the inlet of Trail Creek in Michigan City, Indiana. The cribs were filled with rocks and sunk into place; a wooden boardwalk finished the top of the East Breakwater, creating a safe harbor for this lakefront community. The intent of the display is to preserve some of the original timbers and the story behind the East Breakwater for the education of future generations.

LMCP has not yet received NOAA approval for the following projects, due to the nature of these projects, the NOAA review process is more intensive:

LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

City of Gary

Stabilization and restoration of historic Gary Union Station and luggage storage buildings

\$100,000/\$100,000

The Historic Gary Union Train Station was constructed in 1910 by U.S. Steel as a present to the City of Gary and operated as a passenger rail station serving Gary and the surrounding region until the 1950s. The Station buildings and property were deeded to the City of Gary in 1994 in a state of serious disrepair. Gary Union Station is listed on the 10 most endangered building list published by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. This funding will be used to repair the windows and doors.

HABITAT RESTORATION

IDNR – Division of Nature Preserves

Clark and Pine Dune and Swale East Wetland Restoration

\$25,000/\$25,000

The project is a restoration of the globally rare dune and swale natural community, including habitat for numerous state listed plant and animals species. The project involves the removal of invasive non-native and native woody species from a portion of the Clark and Pine East Dune and Swale property, owned by the Division of Nature Preserves.

Town of Michiana Shores / LaPorte County Drainage Board

Restoration of a portion of the White Ditch channel and banks in the Town of Michiana Shores, Indiana

\$60,296/\$60,296

Funds are requested to restore approximately 1250 feet of the White Ditch (Millstream) stream channel and banks within the Town of Michiana Shores. Restoration will include four main tasks: 1) clearing debris, sediment and secondary growth from the channel; 2) reducing the slope of the now near-vertical banks to a lower, stable slope; 3) stabilizing the newly contoured banks with deep-rooted native grasses; and, 4) creating a walking path along the south side of the stream on the restored bank.

LAND ACQUISITION

Portage Department of Parks and Recreation/Portage Parks Foundation

Salt Creek Acquisition – Brennan Property

\$100,000/\$100,000

The proposed property is a 129.7 acre section of the Salt Creek Corridor that runs through the City of Portage from the south to the north. This corridor will become a natural greenway crossing the city from south to north and will connect to pedestrian trails that travel east to west.

Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

Chase St. Savanna & Wetland Land Acquisition

\$100,000/\$100,000

The Chase Street Savanna located north and south of the Oak Savanna Trail (old EJ&E Railroad ROW) and east of Chase Street in Merrillville is 84 acres of quality oak savanna and wetlands.

Porter County Parks & Recreation Department

Land Acquisition adjacent to Sunset Hill Farm County Park

\$49,500/\$79,500

The Parks Department will purchase fee-simple, a 3 ¼ acre property at 35 East 700 North in Valparaiso, Indiana. The property is contiguous to their 20ft. easement to the park. The property will be protected as additional greenspace for the park and possible future woodland restoration, as well as improved public access.

2004 – 12 projects

LMCP has received NOAA approval for all of the following projects, these projects are in the process of either receiving executed Grant Agreements or officially starting:

RESEARCH

University of Michigan

Fish spawning and nursery areas in harbors and river mouths with and assessment of spawning and nursery habitat in near shore Lake Michigan using mapping techniques

\$100,000/\$67,000

This project will identify spawning and nursery areas in river mouths and connecting water bodies to the Indiana Lake Michigan shoreline and document which native species are utilizing these reproductive habitats.

Purdue University Calumet

Demonstration of oak-savanna restoration in a disturbed Lake Michigan sand dune

\$38,832/\$25,888

The purpose of this project is to conduct an experimental study for oak savanna restoration and to demonstrate the experiment to the public. The restoration site is an abandoned sand mine site in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

PLANNING

Gary Sanitary District

Marquette Park Lagoons Restoration Assessment and Non Point Source Public Outreach Project

\$100,000/\$66,667

This project will conduct water sampling of the east and middle Marquette Park Lagoons; conduct an inventory of the septic systems of homeowners on the north bank of the east lagoon, and increase education and outreach activity by partnering with existing community agencies and organizations.

LaPorte County Park Board

Joint Management Plan for Sebert County Park and Wintergreen Woods

\$4,392/\$2,164

The LaPorte County Park Board will partner with the LaPorte County Park Foundation and the LaPorte County Conservation Trust to develop a master plan for two properties adjacent to one another, and owned by each group. Wintergreen Woods is a dedicated nature preserve, with a conservation easement held by DNR Division of Nature Preserves and Sebert Park is managed by the LaPorte County Park Department.

City of Michigan City

Michigan City Hansen Park Reconstruction Study

\$24,000/\$16,000

Hansen Park is a public park located on the east side of Michigan City, adjacent to Trail Creek. There is no public access from this park to Trail Creek. This project intends to complete a study of the area, produce a conceptual drawing, and produce engineering designs for public access to Trail Creek. The goal is to reconfigure the existing underutilized park in order to support access to the Creek.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH

Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy

Coffee Creek Watershed Project

\$68,837/\$46,264

This project will involve the hiring of a watershed coordinator to help implement the Coffee Creek Watershed Management Plan. The watershed coordinator will produce numerous deliverables: GIS coverage of 150 ft. riparian zone, watershed property owner inventory, riparian zone attribute inventory, surface and subsurface drain inventory, forested land tracts with owner inventory, Hoosier Riverwatch monitoring data, QAPP for sampling drains and database for results, database of farmers using conservation tillage as well as other Farm Bill programs, produce a web page, newsletters, field days, database of BMPs and corresponding brochure for public use, forest conservation brochure and committee will also be developed. This person will serve as an educator to land owners and share data with stakeholders within the watershed.

LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

City of Michigan City

Michigan City 8th St. and Dickson St. Trail Creek Public Access

\$100,000/\$100,000

This project is designed to create an access point to Trail Creek that is owned by the Michigan City Sanitary District. The 4.79 acres of creek frontage at the site will be kept natural. A conceptual plan and drawings will be completed and then path construction, boardwalks and fishing sites that will be next to Trail Creek.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Indiana University Northwest

Little Calumet River Prairie and Wetlands

\$15,131/\$24,406

This project focuses on 10 acres along the south dike of the Little Calumet River between Broadway and Harrison in Gary, Indiana. Currently the ACOE has constructed 89 acres of wetlands in this area of the dike. This project will work towards the goal of creating a high quality prairie and wetland complex by reducing invasive species, planting the drainage swale wetland (4 acres) with suitable native plant species, and raking and seeding the prairie portion (6 acres).

City of Hobart

Lake George Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project

\$35,000/\$35,000

This project will stabilize 550 feet of eroded shoreline at Jerry Pavese Park by the construction of a bioengineered lakeshore.

LAND ACQUISITION

Town of Michiana Shores

Preservation of Greenspace and Establishment of a Public Access Nature Trail/Park within Michiana Shores

\$14,652/\$14,653

This project will acquire 12 vacant lots adjacent to White Ditch within the Town of Michiana Shores. These lots in conjunction with land presently owned by the Town will form the basis of a future walking trail/park in the next phase of a public access Park development.

City of Michigan City

Michigan City Greenway Project

\$75,000/\$75,000

This project is the fee-simple purchase of a two-acre parcel that will be used as a connector for the Michigan City Greenways Project.

***could not accept their award due to a significant physical change to the property that was to be purchased with these funds**